

CITY OF DURHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

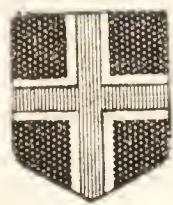
FOR THE YEAR

1972

G. Bailes & Sons, Printers, Durham

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Councillor T. W. LEONARD (Deputy Mayor).
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*Councillor H. APPLEBY.
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*Councillor G. H. SMITH.
*Councillor J. SHILLOCK.

* Members of the Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

80, CLAYPATH,

Telephone: Durham 3520.

DURHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

AUDREY WILKINSON, L.R.C.P., L.M., L.R.C.S.I., D.P.H., M.F.C.M. (Also Medical Officer of Health, Durham Rural District, Brandon and Byshottles Urban District, Spennymoor Urban District, Assistant County Medical Officer, County Durham).

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

LESLIE OATES, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.H.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

ALAN MORGAN, Cert.P.H.I., Educ.BD., Cert.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERICAL STAFF:

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS S. R. SMITH, Shorthand Typist.

RODENT OFFICER

MR. A. FOX.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1972.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population of the area has fallen by 1,550 to 27,550 but the number of inhabited houses has increased by 312 to 8,072.

The birth rate remains low, but the Infant Mortality rate is lower than for the previous year.

The death toll remains highest in those over the age of 55 years, with ischaemic heart disease and cancer causing the greater number of these deaths. Cancer of the lung remains an outstanding cause of death.

During the year the infectious diseases have not given cause for concern, however, this may not continue if use is not made of the immunisation programme offered to those in the appropriate age groups.

One case of dysentery and one case of food poisoning were notified and investigated, this low figure being due to the good standard of food cleanliness and personal hygiene.

The chiropody services have worked well, thanks to the Chiropodists and the Voluntary workers.

Luncheon Clubs and Meals on Wheels have provided excellent meals for the elderly and handicapped, thanks to the efforts of the British Red Cross and W.R.V.S. Members.

I am most grateful to Mr. L. Oates and the Members of the Health Department for their loyalty and efficiency during the year and to the Members of the Health Committee for their support.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

AUDREY WILKINSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Number...	...	...	...	...	...	...	358
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS per cent of total live births 5.0

STILL BIRTHS.

Number...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.0

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS ... 361

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year) ... 6

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	17.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births...	...	...	18.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ... 17.0

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 14.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 22.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Area in acres ... 4,578.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population :—27,550.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1972—8,072.

Rateable value :—1971 :—£1,352,481 1972 :—£1,460,154

Sum represented by a 1p. rate, 1971 :—£13,296.57.

„ „ „ „ 1p rate, 1972 :—£13,900

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.

4,578 Acres. The City borders on the North, East and South with Durham Rural District and on the West with Brandon and Byshottles Urban District.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 27,550.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses is 8,072.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar General's area comparability factors:—

Births 0·89.

Deaths 1·06.

Births.

During the year 358 live births were registered. 190 males and 168 females. Of these 17 were illegitimate.

There were 20 more births than in 1971.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 11·6 is below that for last year.

Deaths.

Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	...	...	...	10·2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	52
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—

264 deaths were registered, one less than in 1971 and the death rate (adjusted) of 10·2 is above that for 1971.

The table of causes of death shows that Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 76 of the deaths registered or 29%.

Deaths from Cancer number 52 compared with 55 in 1971.

69% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65.

Infant Mortality: (Deaths of children under 1 year of age).

The rate is 17·0 per 1,000 live births. Last year this rate was 18·0.

The figure for England and Wales for 1972 is 17·0.

Six children died before reaching one year of age, all being less than one week old.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are :—

1963	...	...	6	1968	...	...	3
1964	...	...	8	1969	...	...	1
1965	...	...	4	1970	...	...	9
1966	...	...	2	1971	...	...	6
1967	...	...	3	1972	...	...	6

and these numbers should be read in conjunction with the rates given in the table and should be borne in mind in assessing the change in the rate over the years. As the numbers of infant deaths each year are comparatively small, too great significance should not be attached to a single rate.

Consideration of the infant mortality is not complete without consideration at the same time of the still births. The number of still births and the number of deaths in the first week of life taken together represent the mortality occurring at or about the time of birth—the perinatal mortality rate, the combined still-births and deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 total births.

In the year under review this was 22·0.

The following table shows the perinatal mortality rate in recent years compared with the rates for Durham County and England and Wales :—

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Durham City	23.1	29.4	31.1	15.2	14·4	18.0	13.0	30.2	18.0	22.0
Durham County	32.4	33.5	30.7	28.6	26.6	25.9	26.0	25.0	22.0	23.0
England and Wales	29.3	28.2	26.9	26.3	25.4	25.0	23.0	23.0	22.0	22.0

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

	All ages.	0—1	1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and Over.
M	123	5	2	1	1	—	2	10	26	39	37
F	141	1	—	—	—	—	2	13	19	26	80
	264	6	2	1	1	—	4	23	45	65	117

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cause of Death.	Under 1wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Respiratory Failure	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT FOR 1972 AND PREVIOUS YEARS. COMPARATIVE TABLE
WITH ENGLAND AND WALES AND WITH DURHAM COUNTY FOR PAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 population.		Death Rate per 1,000 population.		Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Durham City.	England & Wales.	Durham County	Durham City.	England & Wales.	Durham City.
1962	13.3	18.0	17.4	13.4	11.9	14.3
1963	13.8	18.2	17.8	11.5	12.2	14.0
1964	13.8	18.4	18.3	10.2	11.3	10.9
1965	16.3	18.1	18.1	12.7	11.5	11.4
1966	16.1	17.7	17.3	11.6	11.7	11.7
1967	17.2	17.2	17.0	12.5	11.2	10.9
1968	15.9	16.9	16.1	11.5	11.9	11.5
1969	13.9	16.3	15.5	12.7	11.9	12.1
1970	15.2	16.0	15.6	12.7	11.7	11.8
1971	13.9	16.0	16.0	9.5	11.6	11.7
Mean for 10 years	14.9	17.2	16.9	11.8	11.6	12.0
1972	11.6	14.8	14.8	10.2	12.1	12.3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1972.

Cause of Death	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES ...	264	123	141
Malignant neoplasm, Buccal cavity, etc....	2	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	7	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	9	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	6	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	1	—
Other malignant neoplasms	12	5	7
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	—	1
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	1	—	1
Anaemias	1	—	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	1	2
Hypertensive disease	4	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease	69	36	33
Other forms of heart disease	13	5	8
Cerebrovascular disease	34	14	20
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	—	6
Influenza	3	2	1
Pneumonia	38	13	25
Bronchitis and emphysema	9	8	1
Asthma	1	—	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	—	1
Other diseases of digestive system	5	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	2	—
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	4	1	3
Congenital anomalies	2	2	—
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc....	1	1	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	4	3	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	1
All other accidents ...	7	4	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	1	1	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever: There were two notifications of scarlet fever.

Whooping Cough: There were no cases notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis: There were no cases notified. (As in the previous year).

Vaccinations against Poliomyelitis: The tables show the numbers protected in the City (by year of birth).

POLIOMYELITIS 'ORAL' VACCINE.

COMPLETED PRIMARY COURSES.

Year of Birth.					Others under Age 16	Total.
1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68		
1	281	47	26	40	—	395

REINFORCING DOSES.

Year of Birth.					Others under Age 16	Total.
1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68		
—	—	—	2	272	9	283

Measles: 104 cases were notified in comparison with 8 last year.
There were no deaths.

Diphtheria: For the nineteenth successive year there were no cases of diphtheria.

The County Medical Officer of Health arranges that propaganda leaflets drawing attention to the need for children to be protected against smallpox, whooping cough and diphtheria are sent to parents by post when their children attain the age of three months. Further propaganda regarding immunisation against diphtheria is despatched when children are one year old and again at four years and nine months. All such propaganda gives details of the facilities available for vaccination and immunisation.

Dysentery: There was one case notified.

Meningococcal Infection: Two cases were notified, one of the cases concerned was notified from hospital following admission from elsewhere.

Food Poisoning: There was one case notified.

Tuberculosis: There was one case of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, (five in 1971).

There were no cases notified of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

There were no deaths from the disease.

BCG vaccination continues to be offered to the senior school children, and to house contacts of tuberculosis. The Heaf Multiple skin test is used prior to vaccination.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Measles	104	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	38
Dysentery	1	1	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis			
Infective	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	2	2	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			
Malaria	2	—	—
Infective Jaundice	4	—	—

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

There were notified four cases their distribution by age and sex being as follows:—

Age	Male	Female
1- ...	—	—
2-4 ...	1	—
5-9 ...	—	1
10-14 ...	—	—
15-19 ...	—	—
20-24 ...	1	—
25-35 ...	—	—
35-44 ...	—	—
45-54 ...	1	—
55-64 ...	—	—
65-74 ...	—	—
75+ ...	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN PAST 10 YEARS

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.	
	New cases.	Deaths.	New cases.	Deaths.	
1962	6	1	3	—	
1963	3	—	—	—	
1964	3	—	2	—	
1965	7	—	1	—	
1966	7	—	—	—	
1967	9	—	1	—	
1968	4	—	1	—	
1969	3	—	—	—	
1970	2	—	1	—	
1971	5	—	1	—	
Average for 10 years ...	4	—	1	—	
1972	1	—	—	—	

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
31st December, 1971	68	53	11	7	79	60
31st December, 1972	69	53	11	7	80	60

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION, 1972.
(numbers by year of birth)

COMPLETED PRIMARY COURSES.

REINFORCING DOSES.

	Year of Birth.				Others under Age 16	Total	Year of Birth.				Others under Age 16	Total
	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68	1965-68	1965-68
DIPHTHERIA												
1	281	46	27	18	6	379	—	—	1	3	276	24

WHOOPING COUGH

1	281	46	27	5	—	360	—	—	1	1	2	—
---	-----	----	----	---	---	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---

TETANUS

1	281	46	27	19	20	394	—	—	1	3	278	56
---	-----	----	----	----	----	-----	---	---	---	---	-----	----

MEASLES

—	190	72	16	11	—	289	—	—	—	—	—	—
---	-----	----	----	----	---	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---

SMALLPOX

Primary Vaccinations.

Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	Total	Under 1		1	2-4	5-15	Total	
					Under 1	1					
1	13	2	6	22	—	—	—	—	—	24	24

CHIROPODY SERVICE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

Report for the year ending December, 1972.

GILESGATE CENTRE.

Introduction.

1972 was the nineteenth year of operation of this Chiropody Clinic conducted at the Vane Tempest Hall, Gilesgate, on behalf of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association.

Sessions were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, nine appointments being made for each session.

Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S., S.R. Ch. continued as Chiropodist.

Voluntary Assistance.

The British Red Cross Society provided a total of 336 hours attendance.

Treatment.

During the year clinics were held on 138 days during which there were 138 clinic sessions of three hours.

At the full number of nine per session this would have allowed 1,242 treatments, but there were 134 missed appointments so that the actual number given was 1,108 or 89% of the possible.

The average number of treatments given at each session was 8·0.

The number of persons on the list on the 1st January, 1972 was 201 and 201 on the 31st December, there having been 25 new patients and 25 withdrawals during the year.

SHAKESPEARE HALL CENTRE.

Introduction.

This was the sixteenth year of operation of this Chiropody Clinic which is held at the Shakespeare Hall in North Road, Durham.

Like the one at Gilesgate it is conducted on behalf of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association and Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S., S.R. Ch. is the Chiropodist.

Like the one at Gilesgate it is conducted on behalf of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association and Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S. is the Chiropodist.

Sessions were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings each week.

Voluntary Assistance.

The British Red Cross Society provided a total of 414 hours attendance.

Treatment.

Clinics were held on 138 days, there being 138 clinic sessions of three hours. 1,242 treatments would have been possible, but there were 94 missed appointments so that the number given was 1,148 or 92% of the possible.

The average number of treatments given each session was 8.3.

There were 242 patients on the books on the 1st January, 1972 and 231 on the 31st December, 25 new names having been added and 36 withdrawn.

SUMMARY	<i>Gilesgate.</i>		<i>Shakespeare Hall.</i>	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Sessions	145	138	144	138
Days on which sessions held ...	145	138	144	138
Treatments given :				
Possible	1,305	1,242	1,296	1,242
Actual	1,190	1,108	1,235	1,148
	(91%)	(89%)	(95%)	(92%)
Treatments per session :				
Possible	9	9	9	9
Actual Average	8.2	8.0	8.5	8.3
Hours by Red Cross Voluntary Workers				
	475	336	434	414

REMARKS.

The figures upon which this report is based are extracted from the Clinic Records which are kept by the British Red Cross Society.

The operation of the scheme in its present form is made possible by the aid given to the Durham Old People's Welfare Association from various sources, the financial aid coming from Durham County Council.

PRIORY ROAD CENTRE.

Introduction.

1972 was the seventh year of operation of this Chiropody Clinic which is held in the Child Welfare Clinic with Mr. J. Russell, M.Ch.S. as Chiropodist.

Sessions were held on alternate Fridays from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The British Red Cross Society provided a total of 144 hours attendance.

Treatment.

During the year there were 23 clinic sessions of 6 hours.

At the full rate of 20 per session this would have allowed 460 treatments, but there were 66 missed appointments so that the actual number given was 394 or 86% of the possible.

The number of persons on the list on 1st January, 1972 was 76 and 90 on the 31st December, there having been 21 new patients and seven withdrawals during the year.

DOMICILIARY LAUNDRY SERVICE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

This service which was commenced during 1957 has the aim of helping elderly, infirm, and ill persons in the area. It is provided by the British Red Cross Society, the Hospital Authority and the Local Health Authority (Durham County Council) acting in conjunction.

There were 15 households being served at the beginning of the year and 12 at the year end.

LUNCHEON CLUBS.

HALLGARTH HOUSE.

Meals which are especially suitable for the elderly are cooked and served.

CROSSGATE (Waddington Street) and GILESGATE.

Excellent meals were obtained from St. Margaret's Hospital. These meals and the incentive to go out twice a week and meet other pensioners in pleasant surroundings has real value in keeping luncheon club members as active and healthy as possible.

The following figures relate to meals served at the various Luncheon Clubs in the City Area:

Hallgarth House	...	...	...	...	...	2,558
Crossgate (Waddington Street)	...	...	...	...	...	2,160
Gilesgate	...	...	...	...	...	2,719

The scheme is operated by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service for the Durham City Old People's Welfare Committee. The deficiency in the running cost of the service is shared between the City and County Councils.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. *Public Health Services of the Local Authority.*

2. *Laboratory Services.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Department of Pathology.
- (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
- (iii) County Analyst, County Hall, Durham.

3. *General Medical Services.*

Durham County Executive Council, Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham.

Eleven medical practitioners in general practice reside in the City and an approximately equal number who reside elsewhere have part of their practices within it.

4. *Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.*

Benfield Road, Walkergate, Newcastle, 6.

Durham Hospital Management Committee, Dryburn Hospital Durham.

(a) *General.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
- (iii) St. Margaret's Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).

(b) *Maternity.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital.

(c) *Infectious.*

- (i) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sheriff Hill, Gateshead.
- (ii) Chester-le-Street Highgate Hospital.
- (iii) Langley Park Isolation Hospital (Emergency Fever Reserve).

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

- (i) Chest Clinic, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

(e) *Mental.*

- (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgefield.
- (ii) Aycliffe Hospital.
- (iii) Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
- (iv) Earl's House Hospital.

(f) *Venereal Diseases Clinic.*

General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

5. *Local Health Authority Health Services, Durham County Council*

(a) School Health Services.

The school clinic is situated at Kepier Crescent.

(b) Ambulance Services.

The ambulance control is situated at County Ambulance Headquarters, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, and there are twelve ambulances.

In an emergency any responsible person may summon an ambulance by telephone by asking to be connected to the nearest ambulance control (no telephone number need be given).

<i>Stretcher</i> <i>cases.</i>	<i>Sitting</i> <i>cases.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Mileage.</i>
9,805	33,837	43,642	259,666

(These figures include work done in the Brandon Urban District and Durham Rural District).

(c) Domiciliary Midwifery.

There are three midwives practising thus.

Births attended by County Midwives.

Total births (live and still)	...	...	...	53
Hospital patients discharged home before 10th day	...	...	...	158
Total cases attended	...	...	...	211

(d) Domestic Help.

This is provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, an expectant mother, lying-in, mentally subnormal, aged or a child not over school age.

No. of home helps employed during year	94
Cases attended 1st January, 1972	195
New cases during year	89
Cases terminated during year	66
Cases attended on 31st December, 1972	218

Types of cases served during year.

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	6
(b) Tuberculosis	—
(c) Chronic sick (including aged and infirm)	269
(d) Others	9

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation.

(f) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(i) Child Welfare Centres	Newton Hall, Framwellgate Moor. Kepier Crescent, Durham
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(g) Welfare Services.

Services are provided for Blind Persons and other Handicapped Persons.

	Males	Females	Total
No. of blind persons on register	24	41	65
No. of partially sighted persons on register	4 3	7
No. of deaf and dumb persons on register	9 5	14
No. of hard of hearing persons on register	3 4	7
No. of handicapped persons on register	64 62	126

Residential accommodation is provided for persons who by reason of age, infirmity or other circumstances, are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them.

Hostels.

Persons maintained in residential hostels	(a) 10 males. (b) 43 females.
Persons on waiting list	(a) 9 males. (b) 35 females.

(h) Mental Health.

No. of persons registered as mentally subnormal	70
No. of persons under supervision in their own homes	54
No. of persons in hospitals for the mentally subnormal	16

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No statutory action was taken during the year involving Section 47 relating to removal of persons in need of urgent care and attention.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department for the year 1972.

I consider that the work carried out during the year under review is most satisfactory and is a reflection of the excellent team spirit which has always prevailed in this small Department.

As this is the last Annual Report I will submit to the City Council I think it appropriate that I record my grateful thanks to the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation and efficiency in dealing with the many environmental duties for which this Department is responsible. They are, without exception, excellent officers who have given good service to the City Council and to the public they serve and I wish them all well on their transfer to the new Durham District Council.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Members of the Health Committee and to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. Wilkinson, for their support during the past year and also to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation extended to me by the Town Clerk and my colleagues in other departments. In particular I would record my grateful thanks to Alderman Ferens who has held the office of Chairman of the Health Committee throughout my service with the City Council. I do appreciate the unfailing help and support he has extended to me over the years and for the interest he has always shown in furthering the efficient working of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE OATES,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

General Inspection of District.

1. Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	617
2. Dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	—
3. Dwelling houses (exclusive of two above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	98
4. Total number of visits to houses including re-inspections	1,324

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

A. Houses Demolished.	Number.	Displaced.	
		Persons.	Families.
In Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1957, S.42)	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas and as a result of formal or informal procedure (Housing Act 1957. S. 16 or 17(1))	—	—	—
B. Unfit Houses Closed.			
Under Provisions of Housing Act 1957 S. 16(4), 17(1), and 35(1). ...	—	—	—
Parts of buildings closed (Housing Act 1957 S.18)	—	—	—
C. Repairs to Houses.	Number.		
Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied :—			
(a) After informal action under Public Health and Housing Acts	106		
(b) After formal action under P.H. Acts	8		
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners	3		

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

2,653 inspections were made relating to the various acts and regulations for which the Department is responsible.

It was found necessary to serve 226 informal notices and eight formal notices requiring remedying of defects or in respect to other requirements of the acts and regulations concerned and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the respective owners or occupiers.

904 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 412 houses were erected in the City Area comprising 397 privately built houses and 15 local authority houses.

At 31st December, 1972, the number of council houses (including flats) erected since the war totalled 1,614.

The total number of houses built for and controlled by the Council was, at the date mentioned, 2,225. In addition to these properties the Council have the letting, when vacant, of any of the 483 houses owned by the North Eastern Housing Association.

Pre-War Slum Clearance: One property, 79 Claypath, remains to be dealt with. This property is owned by the City Council and when demolished the site will probably be developed for commercial purposes.

Slum Clearance and Individual Demolition Orders: A total of 429 such unfit houses have been demolished in the post-war period.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

A number of visits were again made to such properties in 1972 and as in past years the Chief Fire Officer and his fire prevention officers co-operated fully with this Department in those cases where the properties concerned were of three or more stories and where there appeared to be some risk as to means of escape in case of fire.

Nineteen such properties have been provided with means of escape in accordance with section 16 of the Housing Act, 1961 and in two cases the third floors have been vacated and will not be re-occupied till the specified works have been carried out.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

Certificates as to families displaced from clearance areas and individual unfit houses have been submitted to the City Treasurer as follows :—

YEAR	Individual Unfit Houses.			Clearance Orders.			Totals.		
	No.	Per- sons.	Fami- lies.	No.	Per- sons.	Fami- lies.	No.	Per- sons.	Fami- lies.
1956	11	34	11	7	19	7	18	53	18
1957	10	30	10	5	16	7	15	46	17
1958	4	13	4	6	11	6	10	24	10
1959	15	41	15	3	7	3	18	48	18
1960	8	18	8	23	64	23	31	82	31
1961	15	45	15	3	3	3	18	48	18
1962	28	58	28	11	20	11	39	78	39
1963	29	75	30	7	21	7	36	96	37
1964	5	11	5	1	1	1	6	12	6
1965	3	9	3	—	—	—	3	9	3
1966	15	40	15	8	21	8	23	61	23
1967	10	17	10	2	3	2	12	20	12
1968	5	13	5	—	—	—	5	13	5
1969	5	8	5	—	—	—	5	8	5
1970	8	15	8	—	—	—	8	15	8
1971	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1972	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
							247	613	250

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949/71.

	No. of separate houses	
	Discretionary Grant.	Standard Grant.
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	139	13
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	1	—
(c) Total Number of applications approved since inception of scheme	412	168
(d) Total Number of grants paid since inception of scheme	294	137

A total of 151 applications approved in the year 1972 as compared with 88 in 1971.

303 visits were made in connection with improvement grants during the year 1972.

HOUSING ACT, 1971

This Act provides for higher grants for house and area improvements in Development and Intermediate Areas and is intended to encourage private owners and local authorities to expedite house improvement work. The increase to private owners from one half to 75 per cent of the approved cost of the improvement works has had an appreciable affect in the City resulting in the applications for grant aid for 1972 rising to nearly double that for 1971.

HOUSING ACT 1969. PART 3. RENT OF DWELLINGS IN GOOD REPAIR AND PROVIDED WITH STANDARD AMENITIES.

At 31st December, 1972, thirty-six applications for qualification certificates had been received and the following table shows the position relating to such applications since the Act came into force.

Improvement Cases

1. No. of applications under consideration	...	...	Nil
2. No. of certificates of provisional approval issued	...	...	19
3. No. of qualification certificates issued	...	...	3

Standard Amenities Already Provided

4. No. of applications under consideration	...	...	3
5. No. of qualification certificates issued	...	...	13

One application for a qualification certificate was refused on the grounds that the house did not comply with the requirements of the Act.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

A total of 580 premises are registered under the provisions of the above mentioned Act and all such premises have been the subject of at least one general inspection.

97 general inspections were carried out. This figure represents a reduction in the number of such inspections requested by the Department of Employment and was due to pressure of work relating to other environmental duties undertaken by the staff.

The following tables give statistical information relating to administration of the Act:—

TABLE 1. Annual Report to Department of Employment and Productivity.

TABLE 2. Analysis of Contraventions.

TABLE 3. Analysis of accidents (Reported to above mentioned Department quarterly).

TABLE I

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963
REPORT FOR PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1972.

		Number of Registered Premises Receiving a General Inspection During the Year.	
		Total Number of Registered Premises at End of Year.	
		Number of Premises Registered during the Year.	
Registrations and General Inspections.	Class of Premises.		
	Offices	11	254
	Retail shops	22	243
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	27
	Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	54
	Fuel storage depots	—	2
	TOTALS	36	580
		Number of Persons Employed.	
		Number of Persons Employed.	
		Class of Workplace.	
		Number of Persons Employed.	
		Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace	
		Offices	
		Retail shops	
		Wholesale departments, warehouses	
		Catering establishments open to the public	
		Canteens	
		Fuel storage depots	
		TOTAL	
		3,699	
		TOTAL MALES	
		TOTAL FEMALES	

TABLE 2
ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found			Section	Number of Contraventions found		
4	Cleanliness Redecoration	35	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	...	...	—
	}	...	...	Eating facilities	...	...	3
5	Overcrowding	—	15	Floors, passages and stairs	...	...	22
6	Temperature	...	28	Fencing exposed parts machinery	...	...	—
7	Ventilation	...	17	Protection of young persons from dangerous	...	...	4
8	Lighting	5	18	machinery	...	...	—
9	Sanitary conveniences	2	19	Training of young persons working at	...	...	—
10	Washing facilities	11	23	dangerous machinery	...	...	—
11	Supply of drinking water	—	24	Prohibition of heavy work	...	...	—
12	Clothing accommodation	—	24	First Aid general provisions	...	...	20
13	Sitting facilities	—	50	Other matters	...	...	44
		—	4	TOTAL	...	...	196
		—	—		—	—	—

TABLE 3
ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS

	Offices.	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses.	Catering establishments open to public, canteens.	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery	—	—	—
Transport	—	—	—
Falls of persons	—	—	—
Stepping on or striking against object or person	—	—	—
Handling goods	1	2
Struck by falling object	—	—	—
Fires and explosions	—	1	—
Electricity	—	—	—
Use of hand tools	—	1	—
Not otherwise specified	—	—	—

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	9	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	56	18	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	5	5	—
TOTAL	73	26	8	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found	Remedied.	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	2	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	8	8	—	2	—	

S. 133 & 134. one outworker—altering wearing apparel.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Routine observations and recordings of density of smoke from boiler plant chimneys were carried out during the year. Thirty-four visits were made relating to emissions from five steam raising plants.

During 1972 three steam raising plants were converted from use of coal to either oil or gas. In all three cases the Department had been involved in numerous visits to the plants concerned because of complaints of nuisance arising from the emission of smoke and grit. No complaints have been received since the conversions took place.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES IN DURHAM CITY.

	<i>Trade.</i>			<i>Number.</i>
Bakers	5
Butchers	10
Confectioners	36
Dairies and Purveyors of Milk	31
Fish, Game and Poultry	3
Fried Fish	6
General Dealers	24
Greengrocers and fruiterers	12
Grocers and Provision Merchants	28
Hotels, Cafes, Snack Bars and Licensed Premises	52
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	52

MILK SUPPLY.

Whilst the County Council is responsible for registration of premises for the sale of milk, officers of this Department inspect such premises as a part of the routine inspection of all food premises in the City.

This Department does not, however, take milk samples as this would be a duplication of the work carried out by the County Health Inspector whose Department obtained 99 such samples during 1972.

Of these samples one failed to pass one of the necessary tests and in this particular case a subsequent sample proved to be satisfactory.

REGISTRATION UNDER SECTION 16 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Two applications for registration under the provisions of the above mentioned Act (relating to the preparation or manufacture of sausages and preserved foods, etc.) were approved during the year under review.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES)
REGULATIONS, 1966.

Particular attention was again paid to the matter of mobile shops trading within the City area. 108 inspections and re-inspections of such vehicles were carried out and in seven cases informal notices were served on owners to carry out works in compliance with the provisions of the Regulations.

During 1972 the following matters received attention after the service of such notices:—

Works relating to washing facilities	...	...	3
Storage of waste materials	...	...	1
Provision of first aid equipment	...	...	4
Protection of open food	...	...	3
Equipment—repairs, renewals etc.	...	...	6

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1970.

1,004 visits (inspections and re-inspections) were made to food premises during the year. Many of these inspections were made in connection with other matters which are the responsibility of the Department but in all such visits the opportunity was taken to ensure that the important provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were being implemented.

The inspections included 135 to licensed premises and 232 to restaurants, dining rooms and associated kitchens.

With the co-operation of the County Education Authority and the Hospital Management Committee inspections of hospital and school kitchens were also undertaken and recommendations resulting from such inspections were forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

During 1972 the following works were carried out in those premises subject to the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Equipment—repairs and renewals	...	...	3
Protection of open foodstuffs	...	...	10
Sanitary conveniences:			
Re-decoration	...	...	4
Additional provided	...	...	5

Provision of hot water supply	...	...	...	12
Provision of hand basins	...	...	...	9
Provision of sinks	...	...	...	4
Provision of first aid equipment	...	...	...	10
Provision of accommodation for clothing	...	...	...	4
Re-decoration and repairs	...	...	...	27
Improved ventilation	...	...	...	6
Waste bins supplied	...	...	...	5
Refrigerators fitted	...	...	...	—
Cleansing of premises, equipment, etc....	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous work and improvements	...	...	...	24

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed at the Council's incinerator:—

			cwts.	lbs.
Retail Shops:				
Carcase Meat	...	...	...	1 21
Offal	...	...	...	— 21
Canned meats	...	...	...	4 62
Canned foods	...	...	...	2 14
Fish (fresh)	...	...	...	5 —
Frozen foods (cabinet breakdown)	...	...	5	70
Other Foods	...	...	...	8 102

The total weight of the above mentioned condemned foodstuffs was 1 ton. 7 cwts. 66 lbs.

Fourteen cases involving the sale of alleged unsound or contaminated foodstuffs were reported to the Department during the year 1972 compared with twenty-two such cases in 1971. In five of the reported cases the food concerned was found to be satisfactory.

In all such cases a very thorough investigation is carried out and the complainant is fully informed as to the action taken by the Department's officers.

MEAT INSPECTION.

All animals slaughtered in the local slaughter-house were inspected.

47 visits were made in connection with such inspections and the following table gives details of animals slaughtered and meat and offals condemned:—

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed ..	138	—	—	537	3	—
Number inspected ..	138	—	—	537	3	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	13	—	—	3	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	9.4	—	—	0.6	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tub- erculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

A total of 1 cwt. 28 lbs. of condemned meat and offal was destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Carcases inspected and passed were of excellent quality. Four persons hold slaughtermen's licences and slaughtering was carried out in a satisfactory manner.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES:

All slaughtering in the City is carried out at one licensed slaughterhouse. The Department maintains a 100% meat inspection service and all carcases passed as fit for human consumption are stamped with the approved local authority stamp.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All of the houses (8,072 houses—population 27,550) within the City area are supplied from water mains direct to the houses.

Eight samples of water from the Durham County Water Board's supply were obtained for bacteriological examination. One such sample proved to be unsatisfactory and works were carried out to the supply pipes on the instructions of this Department. Subsequent samples of this particular supply have proved to be satisfactory.

Eighteen samples of water from domestic supplies covering all districts in the City were submitted to the County Analyst for examination as to lead and copper levels. In each case the certificate of analysis showed that the levels of the metals concerned was satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Eight samples of water were obtained from the large and small pools for bacteriological examination and all such samples proved to be satisfactory.

JEQUIRITY AND CASTOR SEEDS

As a result of the publicity relating to the potential danger arising from the use of these seeds in necklaces and bracelets 25 such ornaments were handed in to this Department and were subsequently passed to the County Analyst for examination.

Nineteen of the articles were found to be toxic and were destroyed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES INVESTIGATION.

Twenty-one visits were made in relation to investigations into cases of infectious disease. The majority of such visits were made in connection with obtaining specimens for bacteriological examination from people who had been in contact with cases of infectious disease whilst abroad.

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment: In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food a test-baiting of 315 manholes was carried out followed by two maintenance treatments of those sections of sewer where such treatments were desirable. A total of 128 manholes were baited and final results showed poison takes in 19 manholes compared with 109 manholes baited and 19 poison takes in 1971.

Surface Infestations: All Council properties likely to become infested (including the sewage works and refuse disposal tip) received periodical visits and treatments as required. The river banks also were given attention.

The following table is a summary of the rodent control work carried out during the year:—

	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Other Infested Places.	Totals
No. of Premises ...	163	38	197	398
No. of Visits ...	429	114	635	1,178
No. of Poison-baits	807	508	857	2,172
No. of Post-baits ...	91	30	81	202

Wherever necessary owners of premises were requested to carry out rat-proofing after completion of treatments.

DRAINAGE.

The following works were carried out, under the supervision of the Department, during the year 1972:—

Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	66
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	81
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	66
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	56
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	63
Other drainage defects remedied		...	...	...	4
Smoke tests	...	...	...	...	4
Water tests	...	...	...	...	55
Colour tests	...	...	...	...	14

SUMMARY OF WORK OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	407
Houses inspected (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	617
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	707
Visits in connection with:—						
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	21
Food shops, food premises and slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	1,064
Mobile food shops	...	...	...	...	...	108
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	303
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	802
Defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	184
Smoke, water and colour tests	...	...	...	...	...	97
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	21
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	34
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	1,178
Disinfection and disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	217
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	226
Formal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	8
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	115
Miscellaneous inspections	...	...	...	...	...	653

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

Refuse Collection:

The collection of household refuse in the City has been revised and an incentive bonus scheme introduced into the department. After an initial period during which the collection of refuse was not up to standard, the scheme has now settled into a regular weekly collection at all households.

Sewage Works

The Council will acquire the University Sewage Works at Hollingside Lane this coming year and along with an additional pumping station at Newton Hall. It is hoped that with the introduction of an incentive bonus scheme and additional transport that these will be maintained with the existing manpower available.

The main sewage works at Barkers Haugh are producing good quality effluent within the requirements of the Northumbrian River Authority.

WATER SUPPLY.

The City is supplied by the Durham County Water Board and the supply over the past year has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The following information is obtained from the Annual Report of Mr. D. G. Drummond, Chief Engineer to the Board, for the year ended 31st March, 1973.

The unmetered consumption amounts to 34.38 gallons per head per day (32.26 in the previous year) and the metered consumption 17.56 (15.82 in the previous year) a total of 51.94 per day in the area of supply as against 48.08 in the previous year.

2,431 samples were obtained for bacteriological examination and 3,067 for chemical analysis.

11 of the bacteriological samples referred to were obtained from supplies to Durham M.B. and all such samples proved to be satisfactory.

Note: In accordance with the recommendations in the revised Edition of Ministry of Health Report No. 71 the previous classification of samples 1, 2, 3 & 4 has been replaced by a simplified satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1972.

DURHAM CITY.

The work under this Act is performed by Sampling Officers of the County Council, and during the past year the following samples were submitted by them to the Public Analyst for analysis:—

Barley (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beer (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Blackcurrant Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	1

Bone (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bread (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bread and Butter (Informal)						1
Cake (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cereals, Breakfast	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cheese Spread (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cooking Fat and Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cornflour (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fish, Canned (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish, Fresh and Frozen	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fruit, Canned	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruit, Canned (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fruit, Dried	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruit, Dried (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meat, Canned	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meat, Canned (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meat, Cooked	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Shake Syrup (Informal)						1
Peanut Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pickles (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soft Drink	...	...	...	...	...	2
Soup, Canned (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Spices (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suet	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suet (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vegetables, Canned	...	...	...	...	...	3
Vegetables, Canned (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Vegetables, Fresh and Frozen	...	...	...	...	...	2
Vinegar (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1

MILK:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	14
Channel Islands	...	...	...	...	4
				—	18
				—	104
				—	—

Of the routine samples submitted by sampling officers one sample cooked sliceable chicken breasts in jelly was found to be deficient in meat content resulting in a letter of caution being sent to the importers.

15 complaint samples were received from members of the public resulting in the following action. 7 complaints were found to be unjustified.

Tin of Prunes—contained wood screw. Letter of caution to canners.

Opened tin of chicken breast in jelly containing fly. No further action.

Cooked chicken portion—unfit for consumption. Fined £10·00 Costs £9·55.

Foreign material alleged to have been found in sausage (string). Letter of caution to manufacturer.

Opened tin of corned beef—advanced stage of decomposition. Letter of caution to importers.

Slice of bread and butter containing beetle. Letter of caution to bakers.

Wrapped sliced loaf—unfit for consumption—contained mineral oil. Letter of caution to bakers.

Opened carton of milk containing specks of carbon. Carton manufacturers and dairy advised.

